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conclusions in regard to the effects of the production of a surplus revenue he reminds the writer of the well-known theory of Professor Patten.

Some of his propositions which at first seem novel, to say the least, prove on consideration to be worthy of close attention. Such are the following. "A policy of universal thrift would bring about the degradation of our species" (page 312), and "The object of individuals who abstain from luxuries in order to increase their wealth is attained only if a proportionate number of other individuals do not" (page 314), and "The vital object of nationhood can be attained only in proportion to the nation's relative wealth" (page 318).

On the whole the work is stimulating reading to the economist, but is not likely to appeal to the lay reader. Its style is somewhat involved and its use of entirely new terms such as hire-valuation for rent and wages, symbolic and evidential money, devestors, productive-amalgamators, communal and cosmopolitan wealth, make its reading laborious even to the trained economist. It is however attractively printed and has a good index.

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Goodnow, F. J. *Municipal Government.* Pp. ix, 401. Price, \$3.00. New York: Century Company, 1909.

This is an excellent book. It is a comprehensive treatment of the entire field of municipal government, and will be found one of the best works which has appeared for the use of university classes. Historical development and a critical analysis of the present difficulties of municipal government hold about equal prominence. Covering so wide a field there has been of necessity, the re-use of material which has appeared in the author's other works; this is especially true in the discussion of present American conditions, much of which is adapted from Professor Goodnow's "City Government in the United States." Liberal use is made also of the work of other scholars, especially Weber's "Growth of Cities." Other authors repeatedly cited are, Shaw, Munro, Wilcox, Fairlie and Eaton.

The first three chapters review city growth and location and the character of population in cities. Then follows a historical review of municipal government, emphasizing the difference in modern and ancient city life. An extended discussion is given to the position of the city in modern life in order to show its dual character, as an administrative division of the state and as a government for satisfaction of local needs. A review of the legal position of the city in Europe and the United States shows that "the interests of the state . . . and of the city . . . require that the state shall have a control . . . over the discharge by it of the functions which may be granted." This is further substantiated by the detailed study of the different branches of the city government. The city councils, executive and police cannot be freed from state control. "City populations have been in the past and are now incapable without assistance from the state of securing the kind of government which is demanded." The last chapters discuss the

proper systems of charity administration, finance, education and the management of public utilities.

Professor Goodnow sees little hope for immediate improvement in American municipal conditions. "We can hardly help believing that the economic and social conditions existing in many of the cities of the United States . . . are such as to make good popular city government extremely difficult, if not impossible . . . until changes in those conditions have been made." Changes must be made in our systems of nominations and elections, civil service, finance and administration in general before we can hope for substantial improvement.

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Hamilton, Angus. *Problems of the Middle East.* Pp. xvi, 484. London: Eveleigh Nash, 1909.

The recent diplomacy of Great Britain and United States in the East has not been characterized by aggressiveness. Mr. Hamilton believes that this policy has seriously endangered Great Britain's ascendancy in the region to the northwest of India. He recounts at length the numerous attempts to bind to England by treaty, Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet. England's diplomacy in all three cases has proven less than a match for that of Russia. In Persia the recent delimitation of spheres of interest has given England the barren waste, while Russia has acquired a command over territory large in extent and fertile in resources. Previous treaty arrangements with Afghanistan and Tibet should have prevented the entrance of Russia into the important diplomatic position she now holds in those countries.

A detailed study is made of English trade interests in the Persian Gulf and the probable effect that the Bagdad railway will have upon them. Mr. Hamilton urges upon his government to demand an active share in the construction of the railway. England should have at least the command of the river trade in Mesopotamia and the control of the railway in that section. Otherwise Germany, whose trade interests are rapidly growing, will thrust herself between the spheres of influence now held by England and Russia and thus introduce a fourth power in the already complicated Persian muddle.

A chapter on the Hedjaz railway shows the surprising success that the Sultan has had in securing contributions from Mohammedans everywhere for financing a railroad to the holy cities of Arabia. This may well be a warning to those countries controlling large Mahommedan populations as to what may happen if they fall out of sympathy with their governments. Two other chapters treat of the rise of the young Turks and the passing of Korea. The latter chapter adds but little to what has been often told. These subjects seem at first to be unrelated to the problems of the middle East, but the connection of Turkey with Asia Minor problems and the treaty between Japan and England, involving, as it does, the possible protection of India, justify the inclusion of these apparently unrelated topics.

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